

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 13: March 26 — April 1



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa decreased during Week 13, and the community level remains low. **Recommended actions based on current COVID-19 Community Level (Low):** Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines. [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms. People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

On December 20, 2022, the CDC released a health alert network (HAN) for [Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention](#) which provides information on COVID-19 Omicron sublineages with reduced susceptibility to specific monoclonal antibody treatments.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa slightly decreased for Week 13, and is slightly above the normal average for this period (current level: 2.55%; normal average: 2.0%). Please stay vigilant, review the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#) for statewide information, and continue to promote vaccination.

On December 14, 2022, the CDC released a HAN for [Interim Guidance for Clinicians to Prioritize Antiviral Treatment of Influenza in the Setting of Reduced Oseltamivir](#) (e.g., Tamiflu). To date, the FDA and the Florida Department of Health have not received notification of shortages. General information on availability of antiviral medications can be found at [Influenza 2022-2034 \(fda.gov\)](#).

Contact Us:

Florida Department of Health
in Okaloosa County

Epidemiology Section

24/7 Disease Reporting:
850-833-9065

Confidential Fax:

850-833-7577

okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov

COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 13 Community Level

COVID-19 Community Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population (Past 7 Days)	% Staffed Beds with COVID-19 Patients (Past 7 Days)
LOW	3.2	1.0%

PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Week 13 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
MODERATE	24.2	7.7%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

Community Level and Community Risk/Transmission Level are the color of the higher risk level for each of the two indicators. Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 13: March 26 - April 1

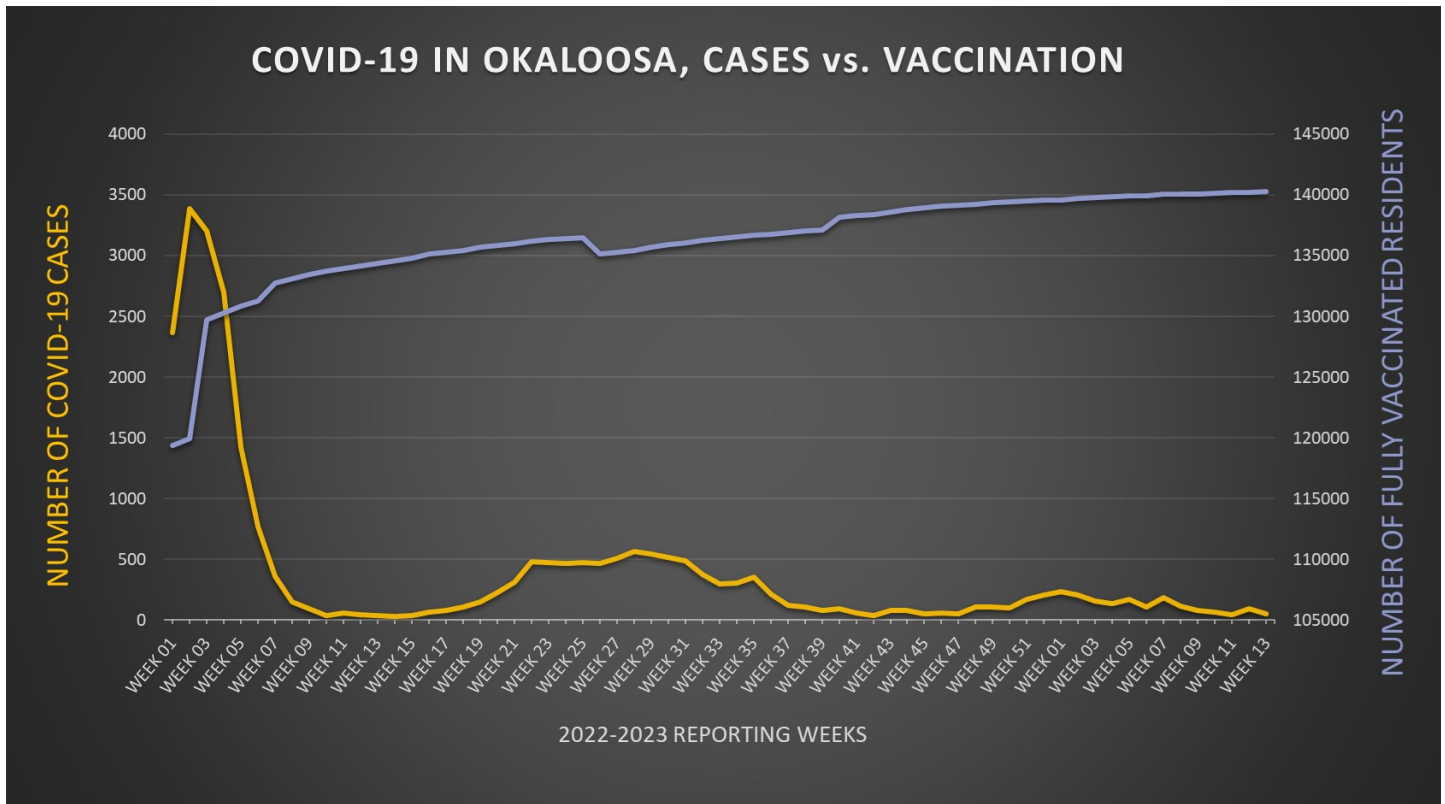


Figure 1: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 13 Review		Difference from Wk12
Resident Case Count	51	- 39
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	24.2	-18.5
Average Resident Cases per Day	7.3	- 5.6
Percent Positivity	7.7%	- 5.0

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	71.2%	73.4%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	77.0%	77.5%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.7%	79.1%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.3%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 13: March 26 - April 1

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

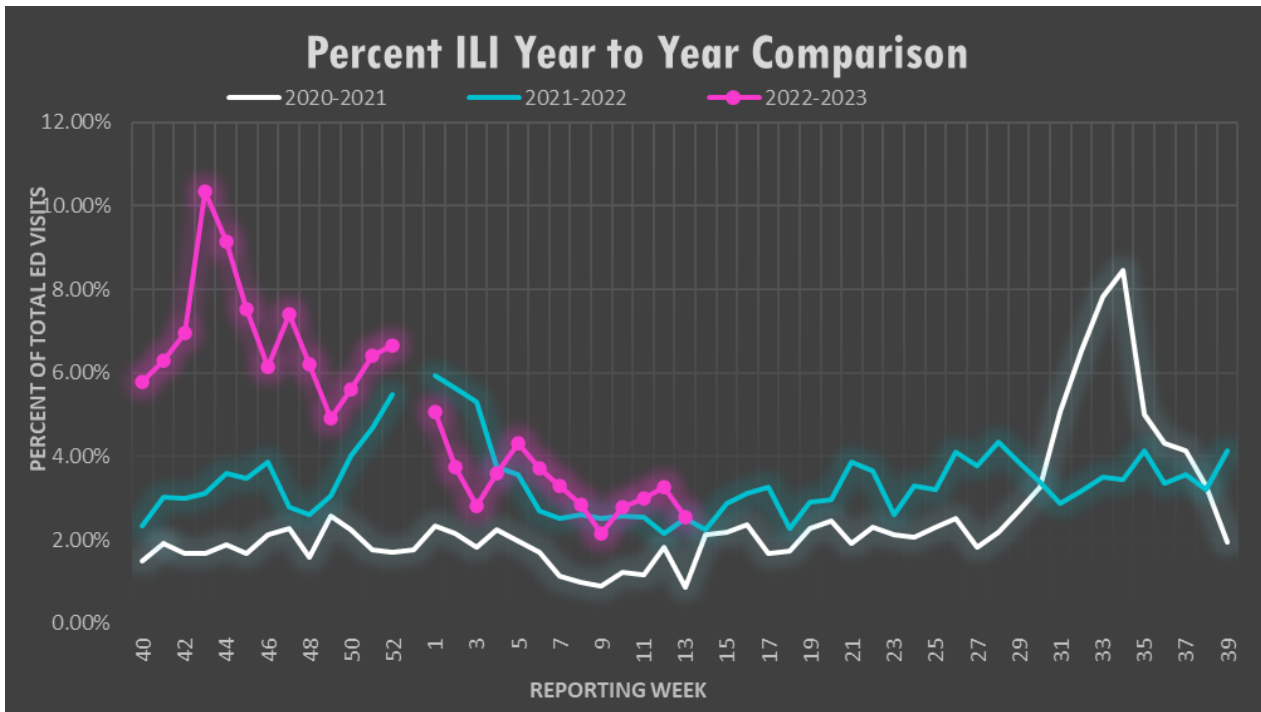


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 13, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased from 3.28% during Week 12 to 2.55% during Week 13. Flu partners reported 3 positive rapid flu tests this week (1 Influenza A and 2 Influenza B). Over the past three weeks, 13 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (8 Influenza A H3 and 5 Influenza A H1N1). There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 13 is higher than that of Week 13 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 13, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	21	178	11.80%
5-19	15	320	4.69%
20-34	16	549	2.91%
35-54	6	561	1.07%
55-74	4	581	0.69%
75+	2	318	0.63%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 13, 2023

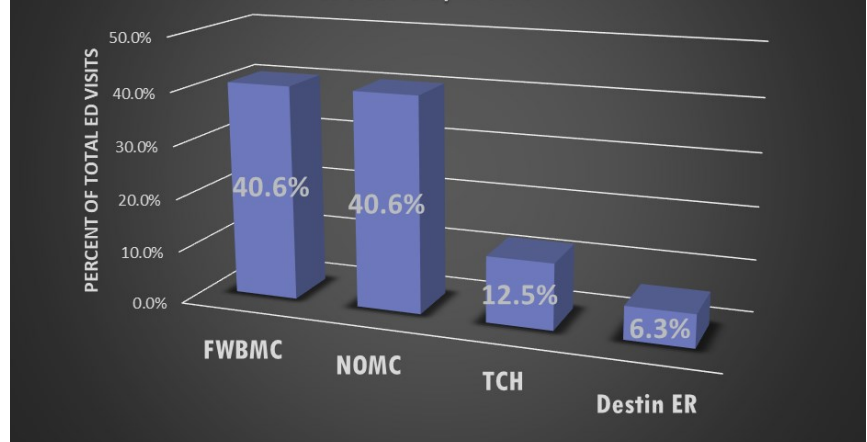


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=64). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

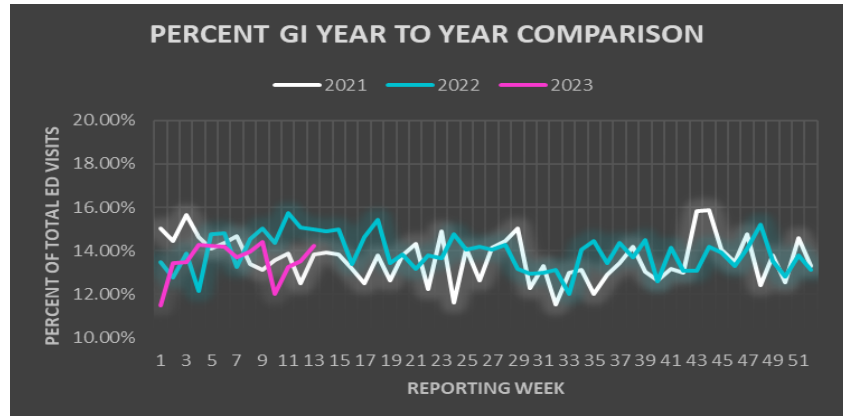
Week 13: March 26 - April 1

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

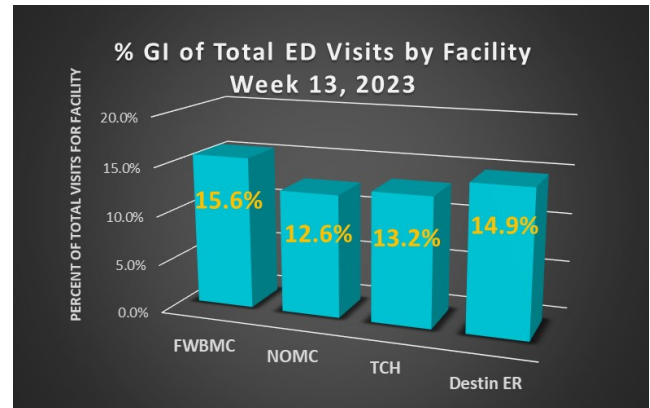


% GI by Age Group Week 13, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	15	178	10.11%
5-19	52	320	16.25%
20-34	84	549	15.30%
35-54	93	561	16.58%
55-74	74	581	12.74%
75+	36	318	11.32%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

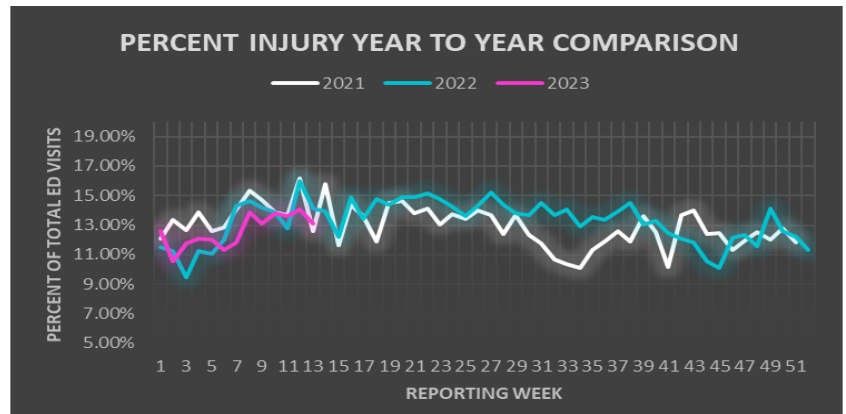


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

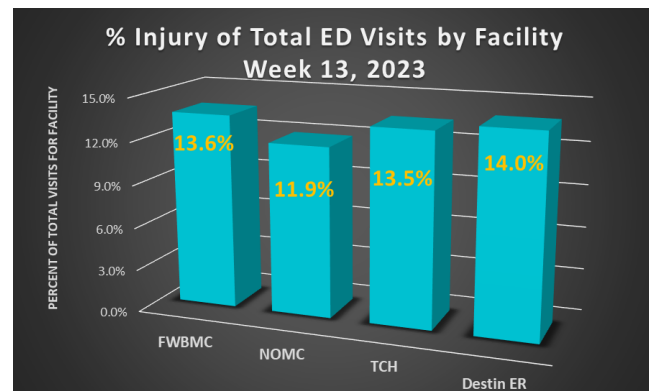


% Injury by Age Group Week 13, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	19	178	10.67%
5-19	48	320	15.00%
20-34	62	549	11.29%
35-54	67	561	11.94%
55-74	72	581	12.39%
75+	61	318	19.18%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 13: March 26 - April 1

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

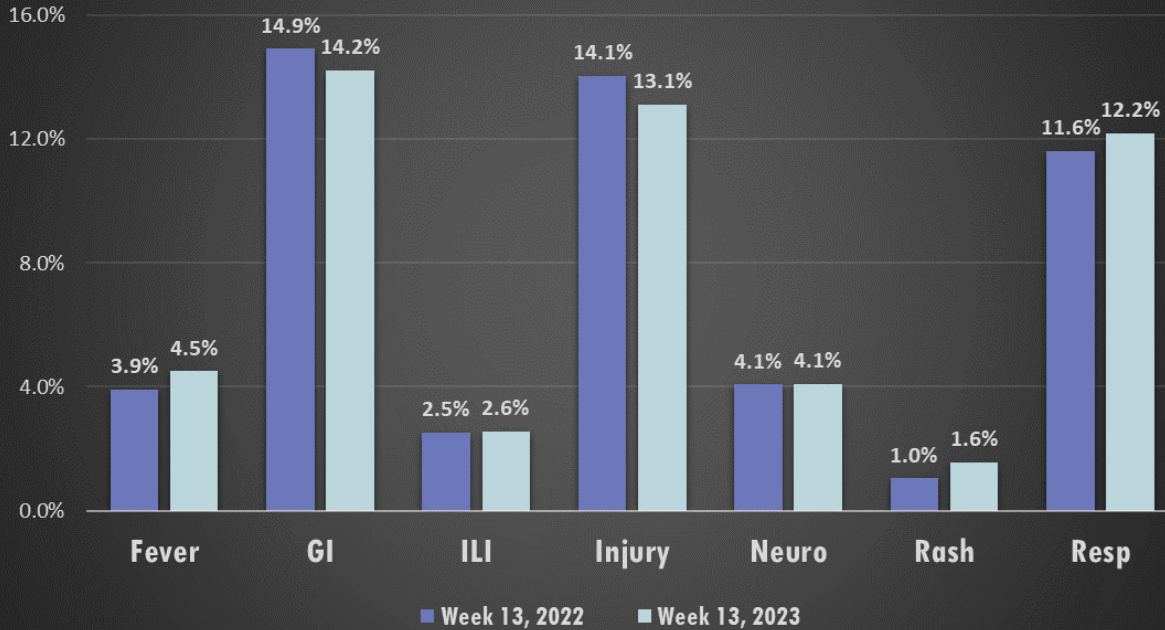
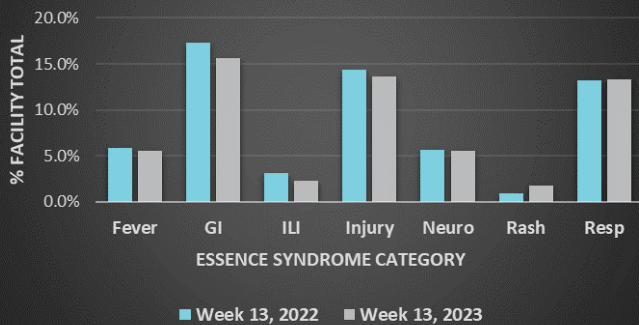


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 13 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2508). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

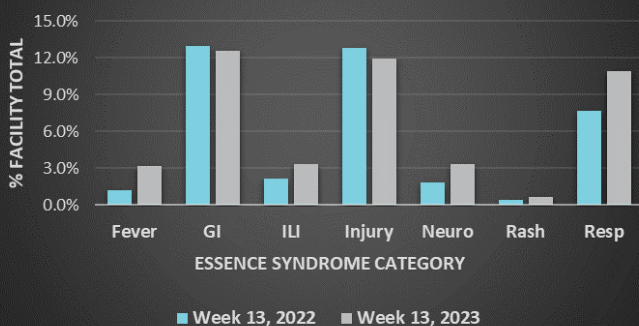
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 13- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	27
5-19	GI	28
20-34	GI	41
35-54	GI	43
55-74	INJURY	37
75+	INJURY	27

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 13- North Okaloosa Medical Center

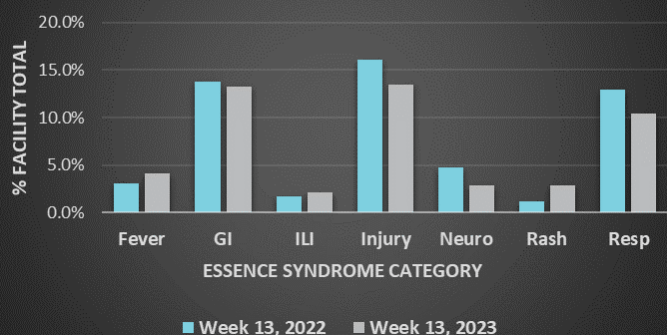
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	14
5-19	RESP	14
20-34	GI	26
35-54	GI, INJURY	24, 24
55-74	GI, RESP	24, 24
75+	INJURY	18



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 13: March 26 - April 1

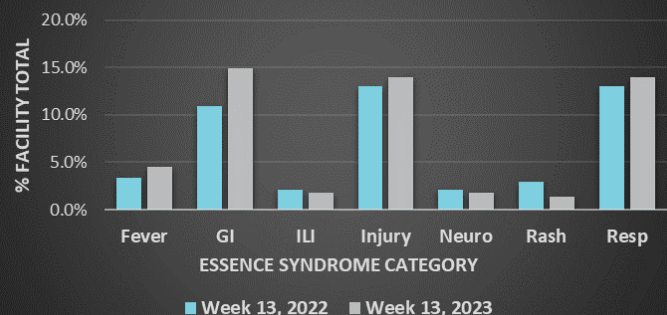
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 13- Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER, RESP	6, 6
5-19	INJURY	7
20-34	INJURY	11
35-54	GI	15
55-74	GI	16
75+	INJURY	14

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 13- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	5
5-19	GI	11
20-34	RESP	10
35-54	GI	11
55-74	INJURY, RESP	6, 6
75+	INJURY, RESP	2, 2

Week 13—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	GI
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE